

**A PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS OF COMMAND UTTERANCES
IN THE SUBTITLE OF *ACTION* MOVIES**



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AYU FITRIANA WIDYANINGSIH

A 320 090 067

**SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA**

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UNIVERSITAS MUHAMMADIYAH SURAKARTA
FAKULTAS KEGURUAN DAN ILMU PENDIDIKAN

Jl. A. Yani Tromol Pos 1 – Pabelan, Kartasura Telp (0271) 717417 Fax: 715448 Surakarta 57102

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NIK. 987

Pembimbing II

(Drs. Sigit Haryanto, M.Hum)

NIK. 567



UNIVERSITAS MUHAMMADIYAH SURAKARTA
FAKULTAS KEGURUAN DAN ILMU PENDIDIKAN

Jl. A. Yani Tromol Pos I – Pabelan, Kartasura Telp. (0271) 717417, Fax : 7151448 Surakarta 57102

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Ayu Fitriana Widyaningsih

A 320 090 067

English Department, FKIP-UMS

Jl. A. Yani Pabelan Kartasura Tromol Pos I Surakarta 57102

Telp. (0271) 717417 Fax. (0271) 715448

ABSTRACT

This research studied about command utterances in the subtitle of action movies. The aimed of this research were to identify the forms of command utterances and to describe the politeness strategies of command utterances used in the subtitle of action movies, especially Hurt Locker movie and The Eagle movie. The writer employed the descriptive qualitative as type of the research. The data source of this research was the action movies, especially Hurt Locker movie and The Eagle movie. The methods of collecting data were documentation method and the steps included watched the action movies, found command utterances, took notes, retyped, and coded the data. The techniques of analyzing data were classified the data in its linguistic form by employing the sentence theory, analyzed the politeness strategies of command utterances used in the subtitle of action movies by using the theory of politeness, and concluded the discussion to formulate suggestions of another research of command utterances. This result of the analysis showed the variation of the forms and politeness strategies of command utterances used in the subtitle of action movies. The variation of the forms was presented in the form of sentence types. The writer found 75 data included 4 positive declarative sentences; 61 positive imperative sentences involved 30 data of a positive imperative sentence consisted of a command and 31 data of a positive imperative sentence consisted of two or more commands; 2 negative imperative sentences; 2 interrogative sentences; and 6 combinations of them. Related to the politeness strategy, they were 68 bald on record strategies; 6 positive politeness; and 1 negative politeness.

Keywords: Pragmatic, command utterances, politeness, subtitle, action movies.

1. Background

Command utterances are the utterances that usually uttered by the speaker to command somebody to do something appropriate with the speaker wants. Kreidler (1998:190) states that “a command is effective only if the speaker has some

degrees of control over the actions of the addressee.” While, Brown and Levinson (1987:61) state that “politeness is showing face as wants, face is the public self-image that every member wants to claim for himself.” There are four types of politeness strategy in command utterances.

This research analyzes the command utterances used in the subtitle of *action* movies, especially *Hurt Locker* movie and *The Eagle* movie. Most data of action movie is commanding, because the speaker expresses a command the hearer to do something what his wants. Here, there are seven forms of command utterances which observed and three politeness strategies which identified by context.

2. Literary Review

According to Peccei (1999:2) “pragmatics concentrates on those aspects of meaning that cannot be predicted by linguistic knowledge alone and takes into account knowledge about physical and social world.” Searle in Peccei (1999:51) proposed that “speech acts could be grouped into general categories.” They are declarative, representative, expressive, directive, interrogative, and commissive. One of them is declarative utterance. For Kreidler (1998:189) “directive utterances are those in which the speaker tries to get the addressee to perform some act or refrain from performing an act.” There are three kinds of directive utterance are as follows: commanding, requesting, and suggesting.

In command utterances, it means the utterance that uttered by speaker to command somebody to do something appropriate with the speaker wants. Kreidler (1998:190) states that “a command is effective only if the speaker has some degree of control over the actions of the addressee.” There are three forms of command utterances, namely declarative sentence, interrogative sentence, and imperative sentence. Linguistic form consists of word, phrase, clause, and sentence. According to Frank (1972:220) “the sentences are generally classified in two ways, one by types and one by the number of formal predications.” In classification of Sentences by Types, there are four kinds of these. They are declarative (statement), interrogative (question), imperative (commands, request),

and exclamatory (exclamation) sentence. Then, there are five kinds of classifications of sentences by number of full predications. They are simple sentence, compound sentence, complex sentence, compound-complex sentence.

This study also analyzes of politeness strategy. According to Brown and Levinson (1987:61) “politeness is showing face as wants, face is the public self-image that every member wants to claim for himself.” There are four highest-level strategies for doing FTAs proposed by Brown and Levinson (1987:92) are bald on record, positive politeness, negative politeness, and off-record. Context has many influences in the politeness strategy. According to Nunan (1993:7) “context refers to the situation giving rise to the discourse, and within which the discourse is embedded.” In this study, the writer analyzes the movie using subtitle of *action* movies especially *Hurt Locker* and *The Eagle* movie. According to Karamitroglou (2012) “subtitles should be positioned at the lower part of the screen.”

This research deals with some previous researches, but it has difference in some matters. Widyarini (2011) conducted research entitled *A Pragmatic Analysis on Commanding Utterances in the Great Debaters Movie Manuscript*. The objectives of the research are to describe the linguistic form and the implicature (implied meaning) of commanding utterances. The result of the data analysis shows that there are three forms of commanding utterances, namely declarative sentences (32.4%), imperative sentences (64.7%), and interrogative sentences (2.9%). Meanwhile the implicature is classified into two: Conventional Implicature which including ordering (38.2%), requesting (14.7%) and Conversational Implicature which cover ordering (20.6%), prohibiting (11.8%), requesting (5.9%), and suggesting (8.8%). Then, the second study was from Maria (2011) conducted research entitled *A Pragmatic Analysis of Commanding Utterances in the Devil Wears Prada Movie Manuscript*. The aims of this research are to identify the forms and to describe implicature on commanding utterances in *the devil wears* movie manuscript. This result of the analysis shows the variation of the forms and implicature of commanding utterances used in *the devil wears*

prada movie manuscript. The variations of forms are presented in the form of sentence types. The types are: (1) Declarative, (2) Interrogative, and (3) Imperative Sentence. The implicature of the commanding utterances implies the meaning of conventional implicature by inferring the meaning based on the grammatical form and conversational implicature by inferring the meaning based on the background knowledge assumed to be shared by the speaker and hearer.

3. Research Method

The writer uses the descriptive research to identify the forms of sentences and to describe politeness strategies of command utterances in the subtitle of *action* movies. The object of this study is command utterances found in the subtitle of *action* movies, especially *Hurt Locker* movie and *The Eagle* movie. The data are the utterances in the subtitle of *action* movies. The technique of collecting data is documentation. The technique of analyzing the data applies a descriptive analysis.

4. Research Findings and Discussion

This chapter is divided into three parts. The first part is data analysis which concerns the linguistic forms including declarative, imperative, and interrogative sentence. The writer also finds the form of politeness strategies of command including bald on record, positive politeness, and negative politeness. The second part is the research findings, and the last part is the discussion of the findings.

a. Linguistic Form

1) Declarative sentence

Declarative sentence is also called statement of which the subject and predicate have normal word order.

001/EG/DC

Marcus : I've noticed the fort; it's in poor state of pair.

We'll need to do something about that.

Lutorius : Yes, sir. Sure

The conversation occurred in the Marcus's room. Lutorius informed about all of castle and asked about why he chose Britain. But, Marcus

refused it and did not want to answer anymore. Then, Marcus gave a command as new commander; because he looked the fort was very poor.

The utterance above is classified as a positive declarative sentence of which the subject and predicate have normal word order and the predicate is not followed by *not*. It is uttered by the speaker to give a statement as a command the hearer to do something what the speaker wants. The subject is a noun *we* and predicate is a verb phrase *will need*. Then, the object is an infinitive phrase *to do something about that*. This sentence ends with a full stop. So, the pattern of sentence is S+P+O.

2) Imperative Sentence

It is only the predicate is expressed. The simple form of the verb is used, regardless of person or tense.

a) Positive imperative sentence

i) A command of a positive imperative sentence.

004/EG/IP 1

Marcus : It's been told, the grain delivery hasn't arrived.

I want you to send out a patrol to investigate.

Lutorius : I wouldn't worry, sir. One day late, is nothing here.

Marcus : well, it is to me. **Send out the patrol.**

The conversation occurred in the dining room when they were having dinner. Marcus gave a command to send out the patrol to check the grain delivery because the soldiers would be famished if the grain delivery was one day late.

The utterance above is classified as a positive imperative because the predicate is expressed and the simple form of the verb is used, regardless of person or tense. The utterance is not followed by *not*. The positive imperative sentences *send out the patrol* consists of a verb phrase *send out* and an object *patrol*. Then, it is finished with a period mark. The deep structure of the utterance

send out the patrol is *you must send out the patrol*. The subject of is *you*; the predicate is *must send out*, and the object *the patrol*. So, it can be concluded that the pattern of the command is S+P+O.

- ii) Two or more commands of a positive imperative sentence.

033/HL/IP 2

James : **Get back. Get down**

Sanborn : Stay back.

It occurred in the yard when a bomb was blowing at that moment. There was a victim, so all of soldiers got panic and surprised. They ran to find a victim.

The utterance above is a positive imperative sentence using two commands of *get back* and *get down*. They are a verb phrase. Then, each utterance is ended with period mark. It is classified as a positive imperative sentence because the predicate is expressed and the simple form of the verb is used, regardless of person or tense. It is not followed by *not*. Two commands can be an utterance in order to give more intention to the hearer what he or she does act at this time directly. The first of a positive imperative sentence is *get back*. The deep structure of *get back* is *you must get back*. So, it can be concluded that the pattern of first command is S+P+C. Then, the second of a positive imperative sentence is *get down*. The deep structure of *get down* is *you must get down*. So, it can be concluded that the pattern of second command is S+P+C.

- b) Negative Imperative Sentence

A soldier : **Don't move.** If you keep walking we will shoot you.

Move him back.

A man : (silent).

The conversation was spoken by a soldier to a man. A man was standing in the yard. He brought the bombs in her body. He asked the

soldiers to help him released the bombs from his body, because the bombs were locked with many padlock. It had a timer. So, a soldier commanded him to do not move from his place.

The utterance above is classified as a negative imperative sentence because the speaker expresses a command the hearer to do act what the speaker wants which followed by *not*. Then, it is ended with a period mark. From the utterance, the predicate is expressed and the simple form of the verb is used, regardless of person or tense. The deep structures of the utterance *don't move* is: *please, you don't move*. So, it can be concluded that the pattern of the command is S+P+C.

3) Interrogative Sentence

023/EG/ INT

Marcus : **What's your name? What's your name?**

A man : I'm called Guern. My name...is Lucius Caius Metellus.

The conversation occurred in the forest when they were looking for the Eagle. When they continued their journey, suddenly there was a man appeared in the front of Esca. A man attacked him used a sword. But, a man failed to kill him. Unpredictably, a man had a chin-strap scar as sign of a legionary. So, a man was Rome soldier.

The utterance above is an interrogative sentence using a pronominal question. The question is repeated twice to give more emphasize in order to the hearer answers his question clearly. It is started by question words *what* and followed by to be *is*. The subject is a noun phrases *your name*. This sentence is ended by question mark. So, we can conclude the pattern of the sentence above is Question word + Subject.

4) Combination

It is two or more utterances uttered at the same time uses the different kinds of sentence.

001/HL/COM

Thompson : **Bring the bot back, we'll load it up**

Sanborn : No problem. Bot is moving.

The conversation occurred in the field when they were taking some bombs from the garbage. They used a bot to observe bombs. So they could see those bombs from the monitor.

The utterance is combined of a positive imperative sentence and a positive declarative sentence. The positive imperative sentence uses verb *bring* and verb phrase *the bot back*. It is ended by comma mark. It is classified as a positive imperative sentence because the predicate is expressed and the simple form of the verb is used, regardless of person or tense. It is not followed by *not*. The deep structure of *bring the bot back* is *you bring the bot back*. We can conclude that the pattern of the first command is S+P+O. While, the second sentence *we'll load it up* is classified as a positive declarative sentence of which the subject and the predicate have normal word order and the predicate is not followed by *not*. The subject is a noun *we* and the predicate is a verb phrase *will load*, and the object is *it up*. It is ended by full stop. We can conclude that the pattern of the second command is S+P+O.

b. Politeness Strategy

The writer found three kinds of high-level strategies are as follows:

1) Bald on record

a) Urgency

Urgency is an urgent and a danger situation where the people must to do something or action quickly.

022/HL/BOR

James : **Eldridge, we need ammo!**

Eldridge : Where is it?

James : Check on the dead guy, man. It's on the dead man.

The conversation above was spoken by James (sergeant) to Eldridge (specialist). Their Humvee was attacked by the enemies in the desert. They were shooting the enemies used of a Barret (pistol). The Barret spent out of ammo. James was in the upstairs of high land. He took of the fire to the enemies. Besides that, Eldridge was in downstairs. He checked the ammo on the dead man.

The utterance above is bald on record politeness strategy categorized as an urgency situation because they are in a dangerous situation. They spend out the ammo when they are shooting the enemies. At that time, James needs the ammo as soon as possible before the enemies shoot them first. In expressing the utterance, James (speaker) does not minimize the threat to the addressee's face (Eldridge), he just needs ammo and Eldridge must give ammo to the speaker. He also no cares the addressee's feel. Here, James needs maximum efficiency to ask the ammo so that he can shoot enemy uses a Barret.

b) Communication Difficulties

It is used in the cases of channel noise, or where communication difficulties exert pressure to speak with maximum efficiency.

009/EG/BOR

Marcus : **Bring me a torch! Hold! Steady!**

The soldiers : (silent)

The conversation was spoken by Marcus (sergeant) to the soldiers. It occurred in the midnight when they were attacked by the enemies. The enemies could be defeated by a torch.

The utterance above is bald on record politeness strategy classified as a communication difficulty to the speaker speaks with maximum efficiency. From the utterance, Marcus as the speaker needs a torch to attack the enemies. But Marcus has a long distance to the

soldier who brings a torch. The situation is very noisy. Based on the analysis above, it can conclude that Marcus uses bald on record of a communication difficulties strategy because at that time, he gets channel noise when he deliver what he wants in the maximum efficiency.

c) Task Oriented

Task oriented uses in the instruction or recipes.

035/HL/BOR

James : Psst. Psst. Ssh. You speak English?

A man : English. French. Arabic.

James : Good. **Open you vest.** Ah, stay there. Stay.

The conversation above was spoken by James (sergeant) to an Arabic man. James came in an Arabic man's house. James was looking for a man who killed Beckham. He commanded an Arabic man to open his vest and stayed in his place without moving. So, James knew that an Arabic man did not bring a pistol or bombs.

The utterance above is bald on record politeness strategy classified as task-oriented because James commands an Arabic man to open his vest and stay in his place without moving. He gets maximum efficiency to deliver his wants using bald on record classified as task-oriented strategy. Here, James does not want an Arabic man to go to James's place because he brings a pistol. He can take a fire every time. James uses bald on record to give an instruction. This bald on record gives instructions the hearer to do what James wants.

d) S is more powerful than H

S's want to satisfy H's face is small, either because S is powerful and does not fear retaliation or non-cooperation from H.

017/EG/BOR

Marcus: **Some wine.**

Esca : (silent)

The conversation occurred in Marcus's room when he got accident on his foot. He could not move from his bed. He must take a rest for a long time. If he needed something, his slave would serve him.

The utterance above is bald on record politeness strategy classified as S powerful than H. Here, Marcus is a commander, while Esca is a slave. Marcus has authorization to command his slave to do what his want because he has a power. Marcus uses bald on record politeness strategy to give a command his slave. He uses bald on record classified as S powerful than H, so that he gets maximum efficiency to deliver his wants.

2) Positive Politeness

a) Use in-group Identity Marker

028/HL/PP

James : You're all right, Sanborn. You're all right. Man.

Owen, get this guy a drink. C'mon.

The conversation occurred in James's room when they were celebrating their victory. James and Sanborn punched each other. Finally, Sanborn defeated this game. So, he needed a drink.

The utterance above is a positive politeness strategy classified as strategy 4 *use in-group identity markers*. The utterance uses the other address forms to convey in-group membership, it is *Owen*. *Owen* is a nickname of Eldridge. James calls that to give a solidarity in-group, although James has control of Owen. James asks Owen to take a drink. This is because the speaker has close relationship with the hearer. Although James is sergeant, but he still uses a positive politeness strategy classified as *use in-group identity markers* because it is to claim of the solidarity.

b) Include both S and H in the Activity

In this strategy means that S and H do action together.

016/HL/PP

James : We're done. Sanborn, **let's get out of here.**

Sanborn : (silent).

The conversation was spoken by James (sergeant) to Sanborn. They tried to find the main source of the bombs in the terrorist's car. After James finished his job, he decided to back their Humvee.

The utterance above is a positive politeness strategies classified as strategy 12 *both S and H in the activity*. He tries to find the main source of the bombs for long time ago. After he finishes his job, he commands Sanborn to get out of there. James uses a positive politeness strategy classified as strategy 12 because James uses *let's* form in his utterances. It means that a speaker invites a hearer to be cooperative to do an action or activity together.

3) Negative Politeness

a) Be Conventionally Indirect

025/HL/NP

James : Hey, Owen.

Eldridge : Yeah?

James : **Can you grab the juice out of the pack please?**

Eldridge : Sure.

The conversation occurred in the desert when they were shooting the enemies. They used a Barret (pistol) to shoot the enemies. Besides that, they always stayed in their place and looked at around of the enemies place for a long time. The weather of the desert was very hot and wind. So, James needed some water because he spent out his energy.

The utterance above is a negative politeness strategy classified as strategy 01 *be conventionally indirect*. Marcus faces the opposing tension. He asks Owen to grab the juice. This utterance goes on record and the speaker indicates his desire to have one off record. He commands Owen to help him takes the juice of the pack. He uses negative politeness strategy classified as strategy 01 *be conventionally indirect* because the speaker has redressive action to the hearer's negative face.

5. Conclusion and Suggestion

After finding of research and discussing the problems statement about linguistic forms and politeness strategy, we can conclude that there are some variations about these. The variations of linguistic forms are declarative, imperative, interrogative, and combination. Then, the politeness strategy, the writer finds bald on record strategy, positive politeness strategy, and negative politeness strategy.

Most data of linguistic form is positive imperative sentence using words because these movies are action movies. The situations of these movies are urgent situation which the speakers command the hearers to do something what the speakers want directly. Then, most data of politeness strategy is bald on record using urgency because almost all of the situations in these movies are urgent and danger situations. In the urgency, the speaker gets the maximum efficiency than satisfy the hearer's face.

There are some suggestions are as follows: for the learner, this research provides information about the variation forms of command utterances. For the lecturer, it gives reference for teaching learning process of pragmatics, especially command utterances. For another researcher, it provides more inspiration as previous study and to analyze the different object of the study such as ordering, requesting, etc.

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